

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the consideration shown by the Office as evidenced by the Office Action mailed on October 15, 2003. In that Office Action, the Examiner maintained rejections from the previous Office Action for claims 1-8, 10-26, and 28-32. The Examiner further objected to claims 9 and 27. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the above amendment and the following remarks offered in response to the Office Action.

1. Claim Rejections & Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's comments concerning the allowability of the matter recited in claims 9 and 27. Applicants have cancelled these claims and incorporated their recitals into each of independent claims 1, 18, 19, and 32. Applicants respectfully submit that, as a result of this amendment incorporating allowable material into every independent claim in the application, all of the claims pending in the current application are allowable over the applied references.

2. Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and the remarks presented herein, Applicants submit that the case is in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully request such action. If, however, any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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